LEAFLETS
of the Southern California Botanists

Volume 36 • Number 1 • October - December 2024

President's Message

Season's greetings,

We can't believe 2024 is almost over. SCB capped it all off with our 50th Annual Symposium with the theme "Past, Present, and Future of California Botany". We heard great talks from some amazing speakers. Board member, Michelle Cloud-Hughes, began with a brief history of our organization from its inception to the present. Mare Nazaire highlighted some of Southern California's premier women botanists. Sarah Feakins gave us a peak into past climate shifts evident through paleo plant wax deposits. Jon Rebman took us on his journeys to search for rare "lost" taxa of Southern California/Baja California. After lunch we heard from Samantha Morales-Johnson Yang about some of the great work the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy is doing to restore land returned to the original people of Los Angeles. Cheryl Birker shared some of the progress California Botanic Garden is doing to conserve botanical diversity. I presented on the recently passed Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act. Then we zoomed into the future hearing from Ben Nyberg on some amazing work that is being accomplished with emerging drone technology. Karen Thorne provided some insight on effects of sea level rise to our tidal

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Duncan Bell and Maria Jesus found what may be the eastern most location of *Cylindropuntia munzii* (Munz's cholla) in eastern Imperial County. Photo by Duncan Bell.

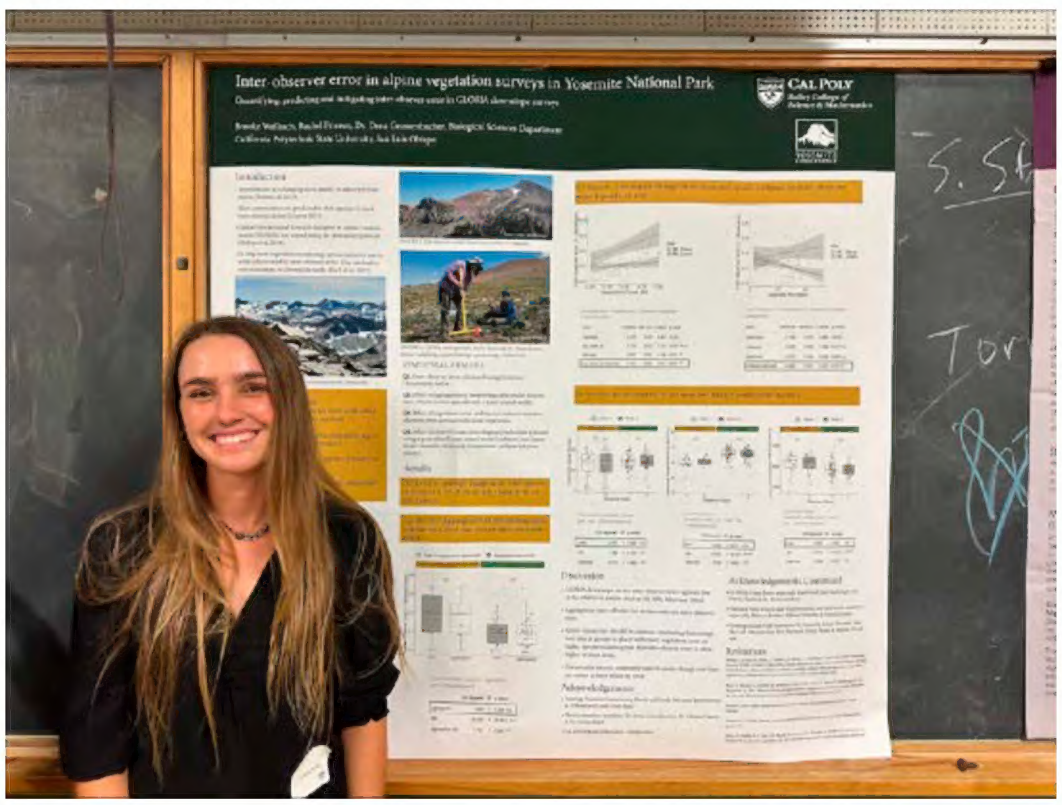
ecosystems. And Nick Jensen waxed poetically on the importance of national monument designations. Interspersed throughout these talks, Joe DeWolf polled the audience to get to the bottom on how to pronounce some of the most hotly contested scientific plant names.

Aside from the great presenters, we had an amazing lineup of artist and organization booths including Erin Berkowitz, Elissa Callen, Fred Roberts, Louis Aceves, Laura Falk, Jepson Herbarium, and CNPS. Our silent book auction raised over $1,200 which will go towards the Gary Wallace Conservation Grant. After the symposium, we headed over to California Botanic Garden for the poster session where Brooke Wallasch and Kai Pessanha were the two winners of the poster competition. There were 15 total posters displayed this year! Our reception was catered by the delectable Just Vegana Taqueria. Those that were lucky enough to stay late into the night got to rock out to our favorite plant-based punk rock band Sage Against the Machine. Thank you all for making our 50th Annual Symposium and our 2024 year so memorable.

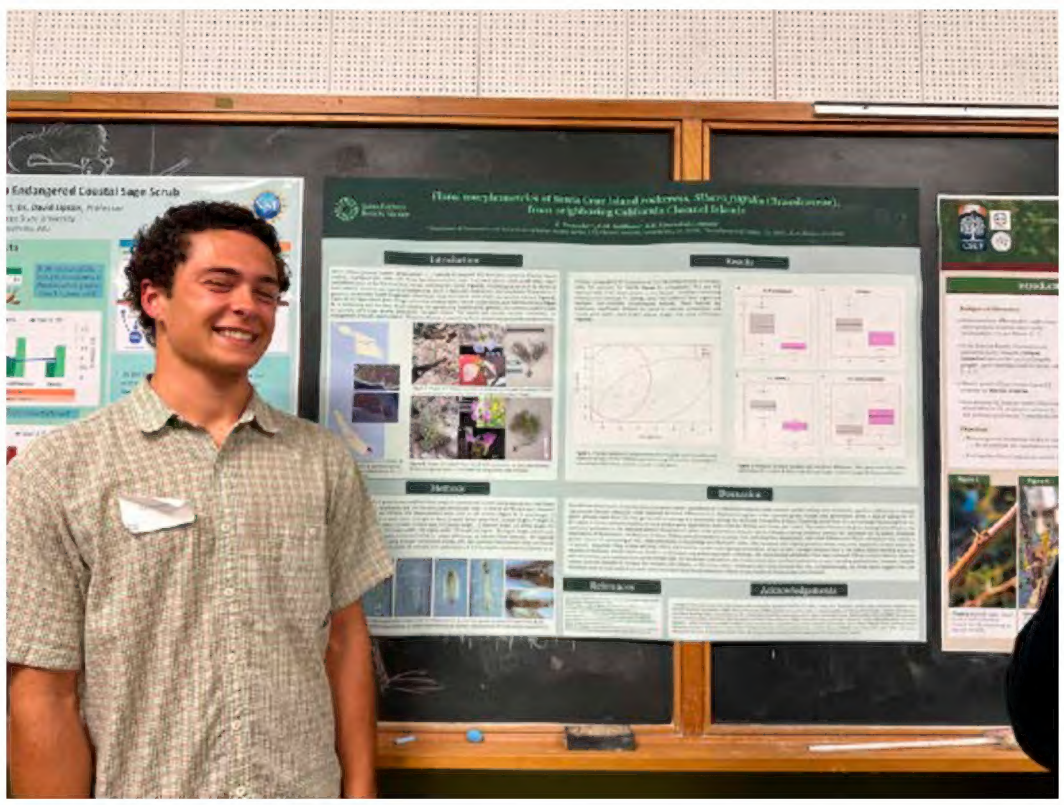
See you in 2025!
Drew Kaiser

Congratulations to our poster contest winners!

The poster session at the 50th Annual Southern California Botanists Symposium was a big success, showcasing 15 outstanding posters on a wide range of botany topics. Nine posters were presented by student researchers. Please join SBC in congratulating the two winners of the student poster contest!



Cal Poly San Luis Obispo student Brooke Wallasch won with her poster focusing on assessing between-observer error in the GLORIA alpine vegetation surveys in Yosemite National Park.



Santa Barbara Community College student and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden intern Kai Pessanha won with his morphometric analysis of the Channel Islands endemic plant *Sibara filifolia* (Brassicaceae).

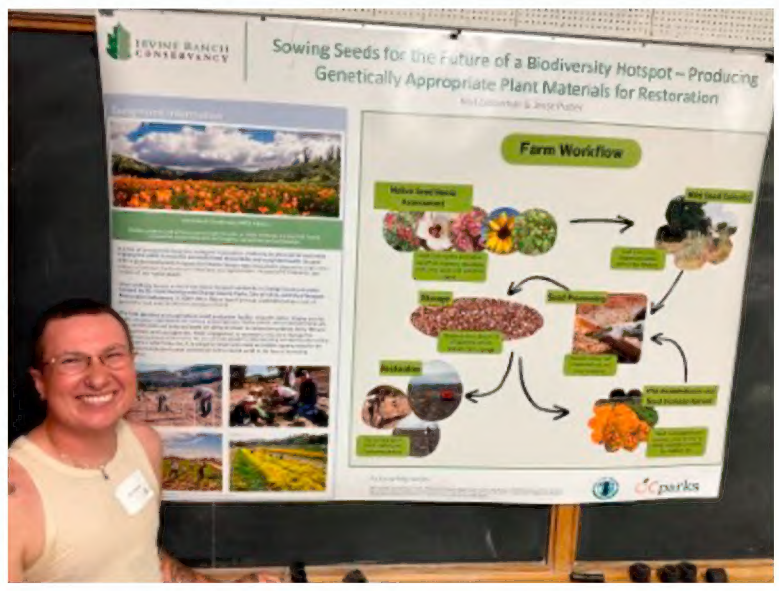
Photos from the 2024 symposium

Erin Berkowitz, a vendor at the symposium, sold her clothing and fabrics dyed with California-native plants.

Vascular Flora of the Boulder Creek Watershed, Jennie Lakes Wilderness, and Evans Grove Complex, Fresno and Tulare Counties, CA
Garrett Goodrich

Garrett Goodrich did a poster on their master's project, a vascular flora of the Boulder Creek watershed in the Jennie Lakes Wilderness.

Cheryl Birker, Seed Conservation Program Manager at California Botanic Garden, presented on the California Seed Bank.


Sowing Seeds for the Future of a Biodiversity Hotspot – Producing Genetically Appropriate Plant Materials for Restoration
Farm Workflow

Mel Letterman, a SCB board member, presented a poster on producing genetically appropriate plant materials for restoration.

Laura Faulk (above), a vendor, sold her ceramics that depict California-native plants.

Nina House and Staci Markos represented the University & Jepson Herbaria as vendors.

Samantha Mo-Jo Yang (left), a Gabrieleno/Tongva biologist and science illustrator, presented on The Biology of Land Back.

What's in Bloom?

Showcasing the beauty of California's native flora.

Eriogonum hoffmannii var. *hoffmannii* (Hoffmann's Buckwheat)
Polygonaceae
CRPR 1B.3
Inyo County, November 2024
Photo Credit: Duncan Bell

Would you like to be featured?
Send your photographs to bcproctor@ucla.edu

SCB BOARD ELECTIONS

It's time to vote for board candidates! Please review the profiles below, then use the following link to vote before February 2.
Vote here: https://forms.gle/FocaY8LQa9MBEvNo7

Secretary Candidate Short Biography

Gabe Elliott grew up in northern California where he fell in love with the oak woodlands, chaparral and riparian thickets of Mt. Diablo State Park. The frequent interactions with T*oxicodendron diversilobum* are vivid memories but did not stop him from admiring *Lupinus* and *Castilleja* flowers long before he knew their names. In 2014 he moved to southern California for college and by the time he did his first vegetation transects in a field biology course, he knew he was on the right path. After graduating, he worked in California, Nevada and Oregon before returning to southern California in 2022. His personal highlight was the time he spent in the Mojave Desert - landscapes and plants unlike any other! He currently work as a botanist in western Riverside County. Gabe also enjoy gardening, scrapbooking, and photography.

Treasurer Candidate Short Biography

Carrie Kiel is an Assistant Professor of Botany at Claremont Graduate University and a Conservation Geneticist and Lab Manager at the California Botanic Garden who studies floral evolution in *Justicia* (Acanthaceae) and plant systematics in the family. She also works on plant conservation on various groups of flowering plants.

Board Candidate Short Biographies:

Naomi Fraga is Director of Conservation Programs at California Botanic Garden. Her research interests include floristics of California, systematics of monkeyflowers, and conservation of native flora. Naomi has served on the SCB board since 2002, and has served as Vice President, President, and Secretary since 2015. Naomi also serves on the board of the Amargosa Conservancy and the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy.

Michelle Cloud-Hughes is an independent botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in the desert flora and ecosystems of North America. She began her career as a restoration ecologist, working for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University, mainly in the Mojave Desert. In 2010 she started her company, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration, and since then she has been involved in many rare plant surveys and other botanical

authority on the genus *Cylindropuntia* and has also published research on several other cactus genera. She is an editor of Crossosoma, the journal of the Southern California Botanists, and an author of *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*, a rare California endemic and the most recent addition to California's cactus flora.

Matt Guilliams is a plant systematist and curator of the Clifton Smith Herbarium at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. As a botanist/plant systematist, his overall focus is the study of the flora of California, which includes floristics, biodiversity description, inferring evolutionary patterns, and conservation genetics of rare plants. Matt earned his B.S. and M.S. in Evolutionary Biology at San Diego State University and his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from U.C. Berkeley. He has been working as a botanist in the state since 1998.

Kristen Hasenstab-Lehman oversees the conservation genetics lab at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. She integrates field studies and molecular tools to document biodiversity and the interplay of ecological and evolutionary effects on plants of conservation concern. Kristen earned her Ph.D. in Botany at RSABG and worked at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in the plant DNA barcoding lab.

Margie Mulligan is an independent Botanist and an Associate in the Botany Department at the San Diego Natural History Museum. She has over 25 years of botanical experience with 18 years specifically in San Diego County. She holds a BS in Environmental Studies from Northland College and an MS in Botany from Miami University of Ohio. She specializes in floristics and rare species of San Diego County and dabbles a bit in Baja California flora. She is an avid collector with over 3,000 specimens to date. She is a founding member of San Diego Botanical Society and teaches a botanical field course at San Diego State University.

Bayley Proctor is currently an NSF RaMP Scholar at the University of Kansas studying biodiversity and systematics of tapeworms in sharks and rays. In 2023, she earned her bachelor's degree from UCLA where she studied botany and marine biology and researched macroalgal diversity and composition in Los Angeles County. She joined the board of Southern California Botanists in 2023 and looks forward to further contributing to SCB's efforts through the merchandise and newsletter committees!

Justin Wood is Senior Biologist with Aspen Environmental Group in Upland, California. Justin has been working as a biologist in southern California for twenty years and has served on the SCB board for the past ten years and served as President during 2017 and 2018. He has a particular interest in the flora of

southern California and has also done field work throughout California and the southwestern U.S.

Jacob Aragon is a botanist and wildlife biologist who is native to southern California. He has worked as a consulting biologist for over 15 years, with a focus on rare plant surveys, vegetation mapping, aquatic resources delineation, and various restoration projects. Jacob is a licensed UAV pilot who thrives to integrate drone technology with conservation projects. He is the head brewer at Alosta Brewing Co. and has served libations at the SCB Symposium mixer since 2017.

The 2021 SoCalBot board, meeting via zoom!

SCB Grants Program

Did you know that SCB has a 41-year tradition of awarding grants?

* SCB Annual Grant
* Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research
* Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany
* Jessica Mae Orozco Diversity Grant
* SCB Conservation Grant

For more information, visit socalbot.org/grants or inquire at grants@socalbot.org

Please donate to the SCB Grants Program and help fund these wonderful grants: paypal.me/socalbot?locale.x=en_US

Membership

Join SCB or renew your existing membership online via PayPal at: socalbot.org

Other Grants Programs

* CNPS Student Research Grants, cnps.org/education/students/grants
* Orange County Chapter CNPS Grants, occnps.org/education/grants.html
* Dean Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award, norcalbotanists.org
* California grassland research, cnga.org/GRASSgrants

Do you have something to contribute to *Leaflets*?

We like short informal articles, notes, sketches, & photographs. Send email to the Editor: SoCalBotNewsletter@gmail.com

To submit scientific articles for publication in *Crossosoma*, send email to editor@socalbot.org